

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

Overview

Kentucky Technical Committee Meeting
Thursday September 6, 2012
Lexington, Kentucky

The Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is:

- ✓ a voluntary competitive grant program,
- ✓ intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

There are two CIG Components:

- ✓ National
- ✓ States

State Component

- The intent of the State Component is to provide flexibility to NRCS State Conservationist to target CIG funds to individual producers and smaller organizations that may possess promising innovations, but may not compete well on the larger scale of the national grants competition.

State Component

- The State Conservationist allocated \$200,000 in EQIP funds.
- Categories:
 - Water Quality
 - Soil Quality
 - Agriculture Energy

University of Kentucky

- Two Proposals (\$301,228)
- Switchgrass (**1**):

Project Counties	Acres In Project
Boyd	5ac.
Bracken	5ac.
Bracken	5ac.
Bracken	5ac.
Harrison	5ac.
Flemings	5ac.

University of Kentucky

- GIS Tools Grassed Waterways and Cloud Computing Tools for Corn Nitrogen Recommendations (**2**):
 - Counties located in the western section of the state (Pennyrile, Purchase, Coal Fields, etc.).

Expected Deliverables

- Switchgrass (**1**):
 - Fact Sheet outlining the benefits of switchgrass for forage use
 - Host two demonstration session on using switchgrass as both, as a feed stuff for cattle and environmental protection.

ASSESS PROBABILITY

Expected Deliverables

- Grassed Waterways and Nitrogen Recommendation(2):
 - A cloud computing application for determining AGR-1 map-based recommendations
 - A journal article demonstrating the effectiveness of waterway placement tools in various areas in Kentucky.

TIMELINES

State Component

- NRCS to provide technical guidance and oversight to address its needs during project implementation.
 - sponsor start to finish

Reports

- Semi-annual Performance Monitoring and Report
- Quarterly Federal Financial Report
 - Jan., April, July and oct.
 - SF 425

Kentucky National Summary

Entity Name	Project Title	Funds Approved
North Carolina State University	Refine and Regionalize Southern Phosphorus “P” Assessment Tools	472,962
University of Arkansas	Identify Methods to Refine Phosphorus “P” Indices	57,924
American farmland Trust	Coupling Precision Agriculture with Water Quality Credit Trading	221,364
Electric Power Research Institute, Inc	A Credit Trading registry for the Ohio river Basin water quality Trading Project	1,000,000
Total	Water Quality	1,752,250

Kentucky National Summary

Entity Name	Proposal Title	Funds Requested
John McLean, INC	Renewable Energy/Nutrient Management	450,000
UK Research	Update KY “P” index/Nutrient Management	255,087
WKU Research	Nutrient Management/Soil Health	61,525
Jackson Purchase	Restoring Soil Health/ Pollinators and Birds of Concern	48,000
Total	Proposals	814,612
Other State	3 proposals	1,648,315

Key Points

- CIG funds awarded for the state component are to target Kentucky's Environmental Resource Concerns (soil, water, plant, air, animal and energy).
- All approved projects should possess promising innovations that will lead to technology transfer.

Key Points

- Sponsors should carefully review and understand the Terms and Conditions for each Grant Agreement

State Component

- The announcement for CIG funding opportunity can be found on the following websites: www.grants.gov/ or <http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov/>

State Component

